

Union College Dec 17/1894



Prof.

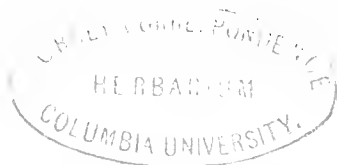
Prof. John Torrey.

Sir,

Although a stranger to you I have been induced from the request you made in your report on the plants of the State of New York, to send you a catalogue of plants some of which are rare about Schenectady and others ~~not generally~~ found perhaps ~~throughout~~ the state. During my rambles in this vicinity the two seasons past, I have noticed about 1000 species of flowering plants and ferns: There are undoubtedly 100 to 200 sp. more, which I have not as yet found.

I have received so much assistance from your invaluable "Flora of North America" that I have been inclined an hundred times to enquire of you when we may expect your final report on the plants of this state and at the same time to beg of you in behalf of the beginners in botany in this state to make us a small pocket manual for the use of our Colleges and academies containing all our plants hitherto discovered. I know of nothing which would so much facilitate the study of Botany.

We have 167 academies; at 120 of which Botany is taught: more than 100 of these use Mrs. Lincoln's Botany a book totally unfit to teach the true principles of the science and at least 30 years behind the age.



Gray's "Elements of Botany" an excellent book for students in the Physiology of plants is out of print. Only 1 copy could be obtained this spring in New York and Albany; and we are no better supplied with cheap Manuals; I sent to the publishers and to New York ^{this summer} for 30 of Beck's flora of the North & Mid. States, for a clasp and could not obtain a single copy. Our young men could not afford to pay from 3.50 to 5\$ for the large Manuals; so that they were forced to take Mrs. Lincoln's as the only book adapted to their means.

If we could have a book, therefore, of convenient size containing a concise & neat account of Structural & Physiology Botany and a manual of the plants of this state bound up with it or separate, to suit the purchaser: & if such a work could be sold (as I think it might) for the same price or a little less than Mrs. L.'s; it would be just the book we want & would take the place of all others in our Academies.

Will not you, Sir, furnish the 12000 students in our colleges & Academies in this state with such a text-book as we need? In so doing you would ~~be~~ ^{render} an essential service in the dissemination of a correct knowledge of this delightful science among the youth of our state.

Will there be a set of plants furnished for the colleges of this state? If there are any plants growing in this vicinity that you would like I should be most happy to send them to you.

Yours respectfully, Jonathan Pearson.



Clematis verticillaris P.C.
Liriodendron tulififera L.
Berberis vulgaris L.
Adumia cirrhosa Raf.
Cardamine rotundifolia Michx.
Parnassia caroliniana Michx.

Clintonia virginica L.
" *caroliniana*
Hippuris vulgaris
Mitella nuda L.
Rhododendron viscosum
Kalmia flauca

Sedum latifolium
Hypopithys laevis Nutt.
Asclepias phytolaccoides L.
Cynoglossum virginicum L.
Lucernella stellata Willd.
 " *montana* "
 " *macrocarpa*.

This is found only in one locality; as I had not found it credited to this state I at first thought it must be some other species, but on comparing it with a specimen from Wisconsin & with Michx's plate I have no longer any doubt. The leaves are very variable in form, I have found some small ones whose leaves exactly agree with Michx's *L. oliviformis*, which sp. I have sometimes thought he has made from a leaf of the *L. macrocarpa* and an acorn of some other species.

Ulmus Racemosa, Thomas
Pinus resinosa Ait.
Nabularia dilatata Spreng.
Microstylis aphnoglaphoides Nutt.
 " *brachypoda* Gray.
Corallophila verna Nutt.
Polygonia verticillata Nutt.
Cypripedium arietinum Ait.
Prillium erythrocarpum Michx.
 " *erectum*, var. *flavum*.
 " *cernuum*.

Allium Canadense L.
Streptopus amplexifolius
Montaria perfoliata L. var. *major* Michx.
Asparagus officinalis L.
Luzula pilosa Willd.
Arum diacanthum L.
Polypodium Calcareum Smith.
Asplenium Rhizophyllum L.
 " *trichomanes* L.
 " *mutumuraria* L.
Pteris atropurpurea
Botrychium Virginicum Sw.
Lycopodium Selago L.

Aster Greenii

This was found here by Mr. Fickerman of Boston.

Pterospora andromeda
Populus balsamifera
 " *monilifera*
Equidatum Scirpoides
Campanula Americana, (Andrew)
Betula papyracea.
Convallaria trifoliata L.
Lupinus perennis, occasionally I have found here a var. perfectly white.
Symphlocarpus fetidus, I have found not a few plants of this sp. whose flowers had 2 + 3 ~~spathe~~ ^{is} one spathe was contained within another; and the spadix in the centre; or sometimes the spadix has been found within 3 perfect concentric spathes. In one instance at least I have found instead of a second spathe a perfect leaf coloured deep purple like the spathe, growing out of the spathe ^{by the} beside of the spadix. These cases are of uncommon occurrence that I would suggest whether it would not be well to slightly alter the generic description of the *Symphlocarpus*.

Viola cucullata, A pupil of mine brought to me last season a curious variegated var. of this sp. the petals being striped, blue & white, he said that there was a large number of them growing together within the space of a few feet.

Dielytra Canadensis
 " *Cucullaria*

Verthusa bulbosa, var. *alba*, I have now and then found them pure white.
Cerastium nutans
Veronica Arvensis
Sparganium simplex
Viola tricolor, (in a meadow in ^{Sa. Co.} Charlton)
Hydrophyllum Canadense
Oxalis acetosella
Leparis laseli
Aralia hispida
Onosmodium hispidum.



Prof.

John Torrey
College of Surgeons & Physicians

New York
city.

